1	IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE U	JNITI	ED ST	ATES
2		- X		
3	MICHIGAN, ET AL.,	:		
4	Petitioners	:	No.	14-46
5	V.	:		
6	ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION	:		
7	AGENCY, ET AL.;	:		
8	:			
9	AND	:		
10	:			
11	UTILITY AIR REGULATORY	:		
12	GROUP,	:		
13	Petitioner	:	No.	14-47
14	V •	:		
15	ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION	:		
16	AGENCY, ET AL.;	:		
17	:			
18	AND	:		
19	:			
20	NATIONAL MINING ASSOCIATION,	•		
21	Petitioner	:	No.	14-49
22	v.	:		
23	ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION	:		
24	AGENCY, ET AL.;	:		
25		- X		

1	Washington, D.C.
2	Wednesday, March 25, 2015
3	
4	The above-entitled matter came on for oral
5	argument before the Supreme Court of the United States
6	at 10:14 a.m.
7	APPEARANCES:
8	AARON D. LINDSTROM, ESQ., Solicitor General, Lansing,
9	Mich.; on behalf of State Petitioners.
10	F. WILLIAM BROWNELL, ESQ., Washington, D.C.; on behalf
11	of industry Petitioners and Respondents in support.
12	GEN. DONALD B. VERRILLI, JR., ESQ., Solicitor General,
13	Department of Justice, Washington, D.C.; on behalf of
14	Federal Respondents.
15	PAUL M. SMITH, ESQ., Washington, D.C.; on behalf of
16	industry Respondents.
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1	PROCEEDINGS
2	(10:14 a.m.)
3	CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: We'll hear argument
4	this morning in Case 14-46, Michigan v. The
5	Environmental Protection Agency and the consolidated
6	cases.
7	Mr. Lindstrom.
8	ORAL ARGUMENT OF AARON D. LINDSTROM
9	ON BEHALF OF STATE PETITIONERS
10	MR. LINDSTROM: Mr. Chief Justice, and may
11	it please the Court:
12	EPA's view that it can decide whether to
13	regulate electric utilities without considering costs is
14	contrary to the text and structure of Section 7412.
15	The text sets out two distinct terms and
16	thus directs EPA to consider whether it is appropriate
17	to regulate and whether it is necessary to regulate.
18	EPA found that it's necessary to regulate because of the
19	existence of public health harms, and it found it's
20	appropriate to regulate for the exact same reason, the
21	existence of public health harms.
22	So its interpretation
23	JUSTICE KAGAN: General, I'm not sure that
24	that's quite what EPA said. My understanding of what
25	EPA said is that it's necessary because of public health

- 1 harms and that it's appropriate because there are
- 2 technologies that can redress or remedy those public
- 3 health harms. So on the one hand, it said that -- it
- 4 said that the phrase "appropriate" went to the nature of
- 5 the harms. The phrase -- the phrase "necessary" went to
- 6 the nature of the harms. The phrase "appropriate" went
- 7 to the existence of technologies.
- 8 MR. LINDSTROM: Justice Kagan, when they
- 9 relied on the availability of controls, they did that
- 10 only after having already said that we must find it's
- 11 appropriate if a health hazard exists. So they've
- 12 already determined that the health hazard is a necessary
- 13 and sufficient condition so the existence of controls is
- 14 something that's not --
- 15 JUSTICE SCALIA: Where is that? Can you
- 16 give us a citation to their opinion? I mean, the
- 17 language speaks for itself, I assume. What are you
- 18 referring to?
- 19 MR. LINDSTROM: For example, if you look --
- 20 this is in our reply brief, but if you're looking at --
- 21 JUSTICE SCALIA: In the reply brief?
- MR. LINDSTROM: Yes, Your Honor.
- I think the -- that points you to the actual
- 24 final rule. That's volume 1 of the UR petition
- 25 appendix. So the language -- let me find it in the

- 1 reply brief. I have the UR -- I have the volume.
- 2 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: I'm sorry, what was the
- 3 page?
- 4 MR. LINDSTROM: Sure. If you turn to the
- 5 UR Petition Appendix volume 1.
- 6 JUSTICE SCALIA: Good Lord.
- 7 MR. LINDSTROM: Page 196. This is the text
- 8 of the final rule. Page 206A. I misspoke the first
- 9 time. 206 says, "We must find" -- at the top of the
- 10 page -- "We must find it appropriate to regulate EGUs
- 11 under Clean Air Act Section 112 if we determine that a
- 12 single HAP emitted from EGUs poses a hazard to public
- 13 health or environment."
- They said we must regulate. And the phrase
- 15 "must regulate" means that when you get back to the
- 16 availability of controls, then there's nothing left to
- 17 be done. You've already said that we have to do it so
- 18 the availability of controls isn't doing any additional
- 19 work.
- 20 The over --
- 21 JUSTICE KENNEDY: Is the government going to
- 22 say that if the predicate for regulation exists, i.e.,
- 23 there are emissions, then it's appropriate to regulate?
- 24 That's what the government will say. I mean, that's --
- 25 "appropriate" is a capacious term.

- 1 MR. LINDSTROM: It absolutely is.
- 2 JUSTICE KENNEDY: And it would seem to me
- 3 that the government will say, well, it's appropriate to
- 4 regulate if there's an emission, so --
- 5 MR. LINDSTROM: It is a capacious term, but
- 6 it, in fact, cuts against the government because one of
- 7 the things that's encompassed within the term
- 8 "appropriate" is that it looks at all of the
- 9 circumstances in the context of determining whether or
- 10 not you're going to regulate costs is a relevant
- 11 circumstance. So the very fact that it's capacious cuts
- 12 against them.
- But the fact that they're -- they've said we
- 14 must find it's appropriate to regulate means that this
- 15 other control --
- 16 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Well, I thought --
- 17 JUSTICE KAGAN: Are you saying that they
- 18 didn't -- that they didn't look at the availability of
- 19 technologies? Is that what you're saying? That they
- 20 thought that the availability of technologies was itself
- 21 irrelevant to the determination? Is that your argument?
- MR. LINDSTROM: We're not saying they
- 23 thought it was irrelevant. They thought -- well, I
- 24 guess logically irrelevant. They thought that it's
- 25 something they did look at. It's something that when

- 1 they did the utility study, they examined the
- 2 availability of controls, but then they said regardless
- 3 of whether or not controls are available, if a health
- 4 hazard exists, we have to regulate. So if I can give an
- 5 example --
- 6 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: I -- I'm sorry. I
- 7 thought they said only if it was necessary. Congress
- 8 was motivated in not listing these sources because it
- 9 didn't know whether the technology that was going to be
- 10 put in place to control acid rain would reduce the HAPs
- 11 sufficiently so that regulation wasn't necessary or a
- 12 listing wasn't necessary.
- I had a different understanding of
- 14 appropriate and necessary. Appropriate if there were
- 15 HAPs, but necessary only if those HAPs were not
- 16 sufficiently controlled by the other technology.
- 17 MR. LINDSTROM: The necessary -- both of
- 18 them looked at whether or not there was going to be an
- 19 ongoing harm because both necessary and appropriate
- 20 turned on the utility study. The utility study was
- 21 something that examined what health hazards would remain
- 22 after all the other regulations --
- 23 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: The health hazard could
- 24 have been low enough so that no -- no standards were
- 25 necessary.

- 1 MR. LINDSTROM: Well, they determined how
- 2 severe -- the severity to the health hazard. The
- 3 severity went into determining whether or not a public
- 4 health hazard existed at all. So they looked at the --
- 5 the effects, and the only place they looked at severity
- 6 in the final rule was determining whether or not a
- 7 public hazard existed. Once there were enough health
- 8 effects that there was a public health hazard, then they
- 9 said we must regulate. And the fact that they said we
- 10 must regulate, it's necessary to regulate, is exactly
- 11 the same as what they said with appropriate, that we
- 12 must regulate.
- 13 JUSTICE KAGAN: Can -- can I step back for a
- 14 minute, General Lindstrom? Because it seems to me that
- 15 this quest for very particular meanings attached to each
- one of these adjectives; "appropriate" means X and
- 17 "necessary" means Y. If we step back a little bit, I
- 18 mean, that kind of language is used all over the U.S.
- 19 Code and, indeed, that kind of language is used in our
- 20 Constitution, the Necessary and Proper Clause.
- 21 And as I understand what courts have done
- 22 with that kind of language, that they haven't insisted
- 23 that there be separate, defined meanings for each of
- those words. When John Marshall was doing this in
- 25 McCulloch, in fact, he starts off with the word

- 1 "necessary" and then he says, no, this is a phrase and
- 2 we have to understand what the phrase as a whole means.
- 3 And why shouldn't we similarly say this idea that, you
- 4 know, you can catch them in a redundancy or a superfluity,
- 5 it's just not right because it's a complete
- 6 phrase.
- 7 MR. LINDSTROM: I think there's two
- 8 responses to that. First of all, under the Necessary
- 9 and Proper Clause, if you look at what this Court did in
- 10 Printz v. The United States, it recognized something
- 11 might be necessary and not necessarily proper. The
- 12 commandeering of State legislature might be necessary
- to couch what you're trying to do --
- 14 JUSTICE SCALIA: Exactly. We -- we have
- 15 separated out the two words and -- and said something
- 16 could be necessary and not proper. And what Marshall
- said was that necessary doesn't mean absolutely
- indispensable. It just means useful. That's quite
- 19 different from saying that proper has no -- has no role
- 20 to play. It can be necessary; that is, useful to the
- 21 Federal government, and yet not proper. So I --
- 22 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: So why do you get to
- 23 pick what it means? I mean, I thought in -- in our
- 24 agency law we repeatedly say if a term is ambiguous,
- and there is no legal definition of appropriate, it's

- 1 contextual, yes. But, by definition, if you're saying a
- 2 word that's not self-defined, you have to look at in
- 3 context, then it's ambiguous.
- 4 MR. LINDSTROM: I don't think it's ambiguous
- 5 in context. You can use the word "appropriate" in such
- a way that everyone understands what you're meaning. If
- 7 I said we're going to take a group of people and we're
- 8 going to go someplace and I want you to behave in an
- 9 appropriate manner, and then I told you we're going to
- 10 the library, everyone would know that that means be
- 11 quiet.
- 12 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Yes. But I look at this
- 13 statute and I see them doing the first part, the part
- 14 at issue, and the very next provision says in 4 years
- instead of 3, do a mercury study that includes costs.
- 16 I'm looking at it. I can very safely say one study
- 17 doesn't use the word "costs." The other does. The
- 18 first one doesn't necessarily intend the costs to be
- 19 looked at. What is irrational or not plausible about
- 20 that reading?
- 21 MR. LINDSTROM: Well --
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Because we don't -- all
- 23 we have to find is a plausible reading to -- to uphold
- the EPA's interpretation.
- 25 MR. LINDSTROM: It's irrational because

1	they're taking the key statutory word and treating it as
2	surplusage. The language I should have pointed you to
3	earlier is on page 4 of our reply brief. So the by
4	treating them as doing the exactly the same work,
5	they're reading a word out of the statute. And Chevron
6	deference doesn't extend so far as to say we can violate
7	an ordinary rule of statutory construction, which is
8	that independent words have
9	JUSTICE GINSBURG: But the word the word
LO	"appropriate," often it's a signal that discretion
11	is what's fitting and you have an expert agency. So the
12	word "appropriate," I think, is commonly used to
L3	indicate that the expert agency will do what it finds
L 4	fit based on its expertise. So, how you well, you
L 5	are saying that appropriate necessarily embodies a cost
L 6	calculation and yet this is a statute that uses cost,
L7	directs EPA to consider costs multiple, multiple times.
L 8	Is there any case in all all of our
L9	decisions where we have said even though there was no
20	instruction to consider costs, EPA is required to
21	consider costs? Is there any such decision?
22	MR. LINDSTROM: I don't think this no, I
23	don't think this issue has arisen the same way where
24	Congress has given broad discretion to an agency, told
25	them to look at all of the circumstances, and the agency

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- 2 part of the problem. And that's why, in the way that
- 3 Judge Kavanaugh looked at it, this is a problem under
- 4 Chevron Step 1, 2 or under the State Farm doctrine,
- 5 because agencies are supposed to not ignore an essential
- 6 part of the problem as they engage in reasoned
- 7 decision-making.
- 8 JUSTICE KAGAN: But I think what Justice
- 9 Ginsburg is getting at, General Lindstrom, is, you know,
- 10 sometimes what we've done is we've looked at silence and
- 11 we've said given that silence, cost considerations are
- 12 precluded, right? So that's the example in Whitman.
- Sometimes we've said silence still allows agency
- 14 discretion. They can do what they want with it. But
- 15 it's so far from our most closely analogous case, which
- is Whitman, to say not only is -- is cost
- 17 considerations, you know, not precluded, it's -- it's
- 18 required when there's silence as to that subject.
- Now, if Congress wanted to require
- 20 something, and clearly, Congress required this in other
- 21 places, Congress knows how to require consideration of
- costs, to get from silence to this notion of a
- 23 requirement seems to be a pretty big jump.
- 24 MR. LINDSTROM: And Justice Kagan, I don't
- 25 think it is silent when it tells the agency to look at

Τ	all of the Circumstances. And the material Circumstance
2	in the context of the question that the agency has to
3	answer is should we regulate under this section, costs
4	are part of the relevant materials
5	JUSTICE SCALIA: I'm not even sure I agree
6	with the premise that when when Congress says nothing
7	about cost, the agency is entitled to disregard cost. I
8	would think it's classic arbitrary and capricious agency
9	action for an agency to command something that is
10	outrageously expensive and and in which the expense
11	vastly exceeds whatever public benefit can be can be
12	achieved. I would think that's that's a violation of
13	the Administrative Procedure Act.
14	MR. LINDSTROM: And I think that's where
15	JUSTICE SCALIA: Even without the word
16	"appropriate."
17	MR. LINDSTROM: And I think that's where
18	there's overlap between what the State
19	JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: I'm sorry. The study at
20	issue that Congress commanded was simply a study. "The
21	administrator shall perform a study of the hazards to
22	public health, reasonably anticipated to occur as a
23	result of emissions by electric utility steam-generating
24	units." So the study that was directed to be made was
25	only of public health hazards. And then it says, "The

- 1 administrator shall regulate these entities after" --
- 2 under this section -- "if it finds regulation is
- 3 appropriate and necessary after considering the results
- 4 of the study."
- 5 So if the study is directed only at public
- 6 health hazards, doesn't talk about -- it doesn't talk at
- 7 all about cost, just public health hazards, why in the
- 8 world would one assume that Congress was thinking about
- 9 cost? Why didn't it do as it did with mercury? Make
- sure the study tells us how much control is going to
- 11 cost. But it didn't do that. It just said tell us if
- they're a public health hazard.
- 13 MR. LINDSTROM: And, Your Honor, it didn't
- 14 limit the considerations that EPA was supposed to look
- at only the study. It says to consider the study --
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: But it says only the
- 17 study.
- 18 MR. LINDSTROM: It doesn't say only the
- 19 study.
- 20 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: After it says -- it
- 21 says, "The administrator shall regulate if the
- 22 administrator finds such regulation is appropriate and
- 23 necessary after considering the results of the study.
- 24 After considering the results of the study." The only
- 25 thing that the study requires is a -- an evaluation of

1 hazards to public health. MR. LINDSTROM: Well, first of all --2 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: I'm not sure how you get 3 to -- to -- to them having to do another step, when the 4 only step that's a prerequisite to registration is 5 6 studying public health hazards. 7 MR. LINDSTROM: Well, first of all, even EPA doesn't think it's limited solely to the things that 8 9 were studied in that utility study. They rely on 10 environmental harms to justify --JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: But that doesn't --11 JUSTICE SCALIA: Does it say after 12 13 considering only the results of the study? 14 MR. LINDSTROM: No, Your Honor. That's --15 JUSTICE SCALIA: It doesn't say that, does it? 16 MR. LINDSTROM: No, Your Honor. That's 17 correct, it doesn't --18 19 JUSTICE SCALIA: Sure. And they have to 20 consider the results of the study. It doesn't say they 21 can't consider everything else. And the word "appropriate" seems to suggest that they may consider 22 2.3 other stuff. 24 MR. LINDSTROM: Correct. So there's a study 25 they're supposed to look at, but that's not the end of

1	the analysis. They're supposed to do something else.
2	That second step is to figure out whether it's also
3	appropriate and necessary to regulate. So it didn't
4	stop at just the study. And again, EPA agrees they can
5	look beyond the results of the study. They look at
6	environmental harms, which is not particularly mentioned
7	here and is mentioned in (n)(1)(b).
8	JUSTICE ALITO: It it seems to me that a
9	very salient feature of the statutes that we have to
10	interpret, maybe the most salient feature is that
11	Congress chose to treat power plants differently from
12	other sources. It could have treated them the same way
13	and if it hadn't done that, then the the listing
14	decision would not have taken into account costs, it
15	would have been based on emissions, right?
16	Or if it was an area source, it would have
17	been based on effect of health alone. So what, if
18	anything, can we infer from that, from the fact that
19	Congress pointedly decided to treat power plants
20	differently?
21	MR. LINDSTROM: I think we can tell that

- ZI MR. LINDSTROM: I think we can tell that
- they're trying to create a different regime. They're
- 23 trying to do something different here than they did
- 24 elsewhere. And That includes --
- 25 JUSTICE KAGAN: But they were trying to

1	create a different regime, but the reason is pretty
2	clear on its face. They were trying to create a
3	different regime because they thought that the Acid Rain
4	Program might have a real impact on what these electric
5	utilities were doing. So they said, wait and see and
6	let's see how the Acid Rain Program works, and let's see
7	if we still have a problem to solve. And that's the
8	reason why they put the electric utilities in a
9	different category, isn't it?
LO	MR. LINDSTROM: And that highlights why
L1	costs are significant. The Acid Rain Program, in
L2	particular, was an economically-based approach that was
L3	determined to regulate in a cost-effective manner.
L 4	JUSTICE KAGAN: But the point is that the
L 5	Acid Rain Program didn't do what they Congress
L 6	thought it might have done, and it was still left with
L7	this issue of continuing harm from the electric,
L 8	utilities. And then once that happened, it seems to me
L9	that it's natural to take a look at the rest of the
20	statute and to say, let's regulate in a similar way to
21	the way all other industries are being regulated.
22	MR. LINDSTROM: But if they had wanted to do
23	it in the same way, there would have been no need to use
24	the phrase, "necessary and appropriate." They could
25	have just simply gone to the ten-ton threshold emissions

1	that apply to major sources and to the risk-based
2	analysis that goes to area sources. So the fact that
3	they used different criteria here in (n)(1) as opposed
4	to criteria that's listed in 7412(c)
5	JUSTICE KAGAN: Well, they could have, but
6	they might have thought, you know, let's take a look at
7	the Acid Rain Program. Let's take a look at the problem
8	that still remains, if any, and let's give the
9	discretion to the agency at that point, because it will
10	be years down the road in a different set of
11	circumstances.
12	MR. LINDSTROM: But the discretion includes
13	looking at the entire problem. I mean, again, the
14	language in the circumstances requires looking at the
15	material circumstances, and this ties into the State
16	Farm test. You have to look at all of the relevant
17	circumstances if you're engaged in reasoned decision
18	making. You can't ignore an important part of the
19	problem. But I would like
20	JUSTICE ALITO: If the if the reason for
21	the separate treatment was the belief that the Acid Rain
22	Program would be sufficient at some point in time to
23	bring emissions from power plants below the level that

sources, why would it be necessary to enact this

would result in their being listed if they were other

24

25

1	separate provision asking wh	nether it's necessary and
2	appropriate to regulate them	1?
3	MR. LINDSTROM:	It could have just
4	JUSTICE ALITO:	I don't see how that can be
5	the explanation.	
6	MR. LINDSTROM:	Yes, Your Honor. They could
7	have just had a three-year of	delay if that's all they were
8	trying to do, as opposed to	and then go through the
9	ordinary system.	
10	JUSTICE KAGAN:	No, because they didn't
11	know. They thought it migh	t; they thought it might not.
12	They were going to wait and	see. It depended on how the
13	industry responded to the re	egulatory requirements of the
14	Acid Rain Program.	

- MR. LINDSTROM: That still doesn't explain,
 Your Honor, why they chose to use different criteria as
 opposed to just reiterating the criteria that are under
 7412(c) under the ordinary thing that applies to every
 other source. They're still trying to treat electric
 utilities differently.

 And I would like to return to one point
- And I would like to return to one point

 about the Acid Rain Program, which is that, again, if

 you're addressing emissions from electric utilities in a

 program that's specifically targeting electric utilities

 as they did in the Acid Rain Program and that was

- 1 entirely based on cost effectiveness, it makes little
- 2 sense to look at what's remaining after you've already
- done that and then to say in this area of diminishing
- 4 marginal utility, we're going to say costs are
- 5 irrelevant. That's backwards. Costs would be
- 6 especially relevant when you're in the area of what's
- 7 left over.
- 8 JUSTICE KENNEDY: When the statute refers to
- 9 the emissions standards for the 12 percent of the best
- 10 performing plants, will the government say that
- implicitly is a cost consideration?
- 12 MR. LINDSTROM: I expect --
- JUSTICE KENNEDY: I mean, is that their
- position and if so, how do you answer?
- 15 MR. LINDSTROM: Right. I expect they will.
- 16 The way I would answer that is to say that that looks at
- 17 plants across the range of how old they are. So plants
- 18 that were built in 2005, for example, might have been
- built in such a way that they have technology where it
- 20 was cost effective to include certain control measures.
- 21 But if you're looking at a plant that was built in 1960,
- imposing those same control measures on an older plant
- is something that would be a lot more expensive.
- 24 It's the difference between renovating your house and
- 25 building it certainly in the first place.

1	JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: But that's true of
2	all
3	JUSTICE KENNEDY: Mandated if that's a
4	mandated base from which the government must operate
5	and
6	MR. LINDSTROM: It is.
7	JUSTICE KENNEDY: and it's and I it
8	seems to me like there's an implicit cost consideration
9	there. You still say that's insufficient because?
10	MR. LINDSTROM: Yes, Your Honor. That's
11	insufficient because it's not I'm explaining why it
12	doesn't necessarily take costs into effect. The fact
13	that into consideration. The fact that some
14	utilities were able to impose things doesn't mean it
15	would be cost effective for other ones to do it.
16	JUSTICE BREYER: Yes. But why isn't that
17	taken care of by you see, you have to take into
18	account cost somewhere. And so they they the
19	other side says, well, there's room for that. But
20	suppose that 25 percent of all electricity generators
21	are near waterfalls. This is easy for them, okay? But
22	75 percent, it's impossible and they'll all go out of
23	business and we'll have no electricity. Imagine that
24	were so.
25	Could the EPA, under their current theory,

- 1 take account of that? Well, I guess the answer you want
- 2 to say is no, but they say yes, they can. What about
- 3 this 12 percent rule? You know, how does that -- well,
- a little bit earlier in the statute, it says, "The
- 5 administrator may distinguish among classes, types and
- 6 sizes of sources." So if you really had this situation,
- 7 you could say, look 75 percent of the generators in the
- 8 United States have this really old technology and
- 9 they'll all go out of business. And EPA could say fine.
- 10 That's a different class. Okay. I mean, if that were
- 11 really true. So -- so don't they have, through that
- 12 provision and the 12 percent and the next one, the
- ability to take into account at least serious cost
- 14 problems?
- 15 MR. LINDSTROM: Well, assuming they have the
- ability to take into account.
- 17 JUSTICE BREYER: Do they? Yes or no? Do
- 18 they yes or no?
- 19 MR. LINDSTROM: No. I think --
- JUSTICE BREYER: No, they don't. Why not?
- 21 MR. LINDSTROM: The reason that costs are
- 22 not directly relevant to the first one is what I was
- 23 explaining about the 12 percent. So in other words, as
- 24 you -- the example you gave shows that some might be
- able to have the lower cost-effective approach just

1	because they re hear a waterrarr. So relying on the
2	fact that 12 percent were able to meet this
3	JUSTICE BREYER: Fine. My point was I
4	I want an answer to this. My point was, if in the
5	imaginary situation that I've imagined, 20 percent of
6	the generators, for whatever reason, can meet this
7	pretty easily; the next 80 percent will require the
8	entire gross national product to meet. Suppose that
9	were the situation. You, I guess, could go to EPA and
10	say, create, of that second group, a separate class, a
11	separate type, for that's the reason it's so expensive.
12	And, therefore, the 12 percent doesn't apply to them
13	because they're in a separate class.
14	Now, my question is: Can you legally make
15	that argument? And they will take it into account. And
16	that's what I want a yes or no answer to.
17	MR. LINDSTROM: And I think the answer might
18	be yes in the future, but now we can't do it because
19	JUSTICE BREYER: Did you make the argument
20	here now?
21	MR. LINDSTROM: My point is that
22	JUSTICE BREYER: If you're saying yes in the
23	future, let's now go to this case and say, did you make
24	this argument?

I don't believe either side

MR. LINDSTROM:

25

1	has made that argument.	
2	JUSTICE BREYER:	Fine. I'll I'll
3	JUSTICE SCALIA:	Has has the argue has
4	the agency made this obvious	argument?
5	MR. LINDSTROM:	The agency has not
6	JUSTICE SCALIA:	Has the agency said, we're
7	going to take costs into acc	ount; we're going to use
8	this this provision that	Justice Breyer discovered,
9	and and that's what we're	going to do? Is is that
10	how the agency issued its ru	le?
11	MR. LINDSTROM:	They did not. The only
12	distinction	
13	JUSTICE SCALIA:	I don't think so. I never
14	heard of this argument.	
15	MR. LINDSTROM:	It
16	JUSTICE BREYER:	Now, wait, because I still
17	want to know a fact. I wan	t to the fact that I want
18	to know and you're famili	ar with this record is
19	did anyone on your side of t	he issue ask the agency to
20	take costs into account brut	ally, roughly, crudely, or
21	did they all say we want a c	ost benefit analysis?
22	I would like your chara	cterization of the
23	record on that point, becaus	e reading what they've said,
24	it's about cost-benefit anal	ysis, that paragraph. So
25	that gave me the idea that m	aybe everyone interested in

1	cost asked for a cost-benefit analysis.
2	MR. LINDSTROM: And I think the answer is
3	that we asked them to consider costs. We thought a
4	cost-benefit analysis is the ordinary way that a
5	reasoned agency decision-making happens, not through
6	some vague sense of what the costs are, but by doing an
7	analysis. And they have said their entire position
8	here is that we don't need to do that because costs are
9	irrelevant. That's not something we have to consider
10	under the statute.
11	JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: As I understand
12	JUSTICE KAGAN: General
13	JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: As I understand what
14	happens, listing and standards are the only things that
15	you can generally appeal from. It's only a final agency
16	action when the when the standards are issued. And I
17	thought it was at the issuance of the standards that the
18	government sometimes breaks up the sources and the
19	amount of emissions that each type of source that
20	Justice Breyer is talking about can have.
21	So I think the listing is just of a broad
22	category, because we've had plenty of cases in in
23	this Court where we've looked at the agency saying this
24	type of source meets these standards, that type of
25	source meets another standard. Isn't that the way it

1	works?	
2	MR. LINDSTROM:	Well, that highlights why
3	they're not treating this as	separate listing versus
4	regulatory decision. They d	lid both at the exact same
5	time here. Same time they m	ade the necessary and
6	appropriate finding, they als	so promulgated the emission
7	standards. And that shows t	his isn't simply a typical
8	listing standard.	
9	JUSTICE SCALIA:	Once once they're
10	listed, they are subject to m	minimum standards, aren't
11	they?	
12	MR. LINDSTROM:	That's absolutely correct,
13	and must be	
14	JUSTICE SCALIA:	And it's not up to the
15	agency to calibrate standards	once they're listed,
16	minimum standards apply, righ	nt?
17	MR. LINDSTROM:	Absolutely.
18	JUSTICE SCALIA:	And the agency could have
19	discretion as to whether to 1	lift the standards further,
20	but the minimums apply, right	: ?
21	MR. LINDSTROM:	That's EPA's position.
22	You	
23	JUSTICE SCALIA:	That's theirs.
24	MR. LINDSTROM:	must regulate as soon
25	as has been made.	

as -- has been made.

1	If I could reserve my time for rebuttal.
2	CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you,
3	Mr. Lindstrom.
4	Mr. Brownell.
5	ORAL ARGUMENT OF F. WILLIAM BROWNELL
6	ON BEHALF OF INDUSTRY PETITIONERS
7	AND RESPONDENTS IN SUPPORT
8	MR. BROWNELL: Mr. Chief Justice, and may it
9	please the Court:
10	I would like to make three points to
11	supplement my colleague's argument: First, regarding
12	the nature of power plant regulation under the Clean Air
13	Act; second, the language of Subsection (n)(1)(A); and,
14	third, the broader Clean Air Act context.
15	To begin, power plants are the most
16	regulated source category under the Clean Air Act both
17	before 1990 and after the 1990 Amendments. The Court
18	has talked about some of the programs. It's not only
19	Title IV Acid Deposition Program, but a visibility,
20	best available retrofit technology, pollution transport
21	programs targeted at power plants, and a variety of
22	other control programs, both control and air quality.
23	JUSTICE KAGAN: Mr. Brownell, I I would
24	think that cuts the other way, that every other
25	significant industry in the United States is subject to

1	this program except for electric power plants.
2	MR. BROWNELL: Your Honor, what it shows is
3	that for the other industries, EPA estimated in 2010
4	that for all other industries, this Air Toxics Program
5	would impose compliance costs of about \$840 million.
6	All of these other programs for power plants would
7	impose compliance costs, EPA estimated in 2011, about
8	10.4 billion.
9	This single regulation now on air toxics
10	imposes annual costs of 9.6 billion. And what does one
11	get for it? There are three standards at issue here,
12	and I think that this is important to understand some of
13	the questions that have been asked. There's a regulation
14	for mercury, there's a regulation for nonmercury metals,
15	and there's a regulation for acid gases.
16	Most of the costs here the majority,
17	about 5 billion annually are associated with the acid
18	gas regulation which the agency has concluded presents
19	no public health risk, no public health concern. The
20	agency said that our modeling has consistently showed
21	that power-plant-related exposures are at least an order
22	of magnitude below the conservatively determined safe

Now, in the Title IV program, Congress
addressed pollution with acidification potential and

23

level.

1	required reductions of 9 million tons a year at about a
2	cost of 1 to 1.4 billion. The Acid Gas Program is
3	projected to result in reductions of acid gases about
4	40- to 50,000 tons per year at a cost of \$5 billion.
5	What that background shows, Your Honor, is
6	that when why Congress treated power plants
7	differently. It asked whether it is appropriate to
8	impose further regulation of a specific type, whether
9	it's appropriate to propose regulation under this
LO	section on the most aggressively regulated industry
L1	under the Clean Air Act.
12	Now, what the statutory
L3	JUSTICE KAGAN: Mr. Brownell, can I take you
L 4	back to Justice Breyer's first question? And the first
L 5	question was about the way these categories work and how
L 6	the categories enable the EPA to mitigate certain
L 7	dramatic or onerous costs on certain segments of the
L 8	industry, because that's not an unknown provision of any
L9	kind. And, indeed, it seems to me that the provision
20	very much cuts against your argument, because EPA, in
21	some ways, can't even figure out the costs until it
22	makes those categorization decisions. But the aggregate
23	costs, not just within each category, but the aggregate
24	costs obviously depend on how EPA categorizes and
25	subcategorizes.

1	So you would have the EPA make the cost
2	calculation before it really can, given the structure of
3	the statute.
4	MR. BROWNELL: Your Your Honor, the cost
5	does factor into a variety of determinations that are
6	made as part of the regulatory process. When EPA issued
7	its Notice of Regulatory Finding in December of 2010, it
8	said this is nonfinal. EPA confirmed again and this
9	is at page 555a of the UAR Petitioner's Appendix that
LO	the there is no final (n)(1)(A) determination or
11	listing, and we are going to take comment on that as
12	part of the rulemaking to examine Section 7412(d)
L3	emission standards.
L 4	So as part of that, the agency addresses
L 5	issues related to level of control, subcategorization,
L 6	and at the end of the rulemaking comes out with a
L7	regulation that has certain characteristics and
L 8	consequences. And here this regulation what
L9	(n)(1)(A) says is, in light of the study, address
20	whether such regulation under the section is appropriate
21	and necessary for power plants.
22	Now, it may be necessary to regulate
23	something like mercury if there's a public health risk,
24	and that's the only hazardous air pollutant for which
25	EPA has calculated a quantifiable public health risk,

- 1 but that may not be the appropriate regulatory regime
- 2 if, as EPA has explained here, their view of the statute
- 3 is not to focus on whether such regulation is
- 4 appropriate, but whether listing of power plants under
- 5 subsection C is appropriate just like every other
- 6 source category.
- 7 JUSTICE SCALIA: Can -- can I say -- can I
- 8 ask whether that listing is -- and -- and the minimum
- 9 standards that that imposes are subject to the
- 10 categorization device that Justice Breyer was asking
- 11 about? Could -- could the agency say, well, you know,
- 12 we're going to divide these into categories, and since
- it's too expensive for certain -- 80 percent of power
- 14 plants that -- that don't have waterfalls nearby, we're
- going to exempt them from these minimum standards?
- 16 Can -- can it do that?
- 17 MR. BROWNELL: No, Your Honor, not at the
- 18 listing stage. But once the source category is listed
- 19 at the standard-setting stage, they could consider
- 20 subcategorization --
- 21 JUSTICE SCALIA: Reduce it below --
- 22 MR. LINDSTROM: -- in order to --
- 23 JUSTICE SCALIA: -- below the -- the
- 24 minimums?
- MR. BROWNELL: Not below the minimums. Your

1	Honor is perfectly right
2	JUSTICE KAGAN: No. But the minimums
3	depend
4	JUSTICE SCALIA: That's that's what I
5	thought.
6	JUSTICE KAGAN: The minimums depend on
7	the categories and the subcategories. You can
8	categorize in such a way that the minimums will be up
9	here, or you can categorize in such a way the minimums
10	will be down there.
11	MR. BROWNELL: And during the rulemaking,
12	Your Honor, arguments made about subcategorization, and
13	EPA ultimately subcategorized the the power industry
14	with respect to one limited set of sources, lignite
15	sources with respect to the mercury standard. But,
16	otherwise, EPA's position is once listed, it triggers an
17	obligation to issue emission standards under the -
18	JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: So your answer
19	JUSTICE KAGAN: It triggers an
20	obligation as to some standard, but, again, the minimum
21	standard can vary dramatically depending upon how the
22	categories and subcategories are set up. And because
23	the minimum standard can vary dramatic, so, too, will
24	costs vary dramatically. So you're having the EPA
25	consider costs before the EPA can know what the costs

1	are.
2	MR. BROWNELL: Your Your Honor, if I can
3	respond to to that before the other question at the
4	other end of the bench.
5	EPA does know what the costs are through the
6	rulemaking process in which it undertakes notice and
7	comment with respect to both the (n)(1)(a) determination
8	and the emission standard. Section 7607(d)(1)(c) of the
9	Clean Air Act lists subsection N as one of the
10	provisions that requires notice and comment rulemaking
11	under the special Clean Air Act procedures. And this is
12	why the agency explained that there's no final (n)(1)(a)
13	until the end of the process, until notice and comment
14	and we've taken and determined what the costs are.
15	JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: So
16	interestingly and and this is then confirming what
17	Justice Breyer said the point that you had an
18	opportunity and apparently took advantage of it to tell
19	the EPA that it should subcategorize this source, and it
20	decided to subcategorize just one piece of it.
21	So what you're really saying to us is it's
22	not the listing. It's the way they've set up their
23	emissions standards that I disagree with because they
24	could have decided that there were subcategories that

didn't require a standard at all. I'm presuming that

25

- they could have said anybody by the water doesn't have
- 2 to do more because they're already 12 -- they're part of
- 3 the 12 percent. We're going to do cost by everybody
- 4 else that's not by the water.
- 5 MR. BROWNELL: Conceptually, Your Honor, I
- 6 imagine they could have subcategorized away the entire
- 7 industry, but that's not what they did in this
- 8 rulemaking. And with respect to certain of the
- 9 regulations --
- 10 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: No, they didn't do it.
- But -- but you're asking us -- you're -- this is
- 12 almost a -- this is a challenge to a regulation that's
- only piecemeal because you're -- you're arguing that
- 14 they should have considered costs, but they obviously
- 15 did before they issued the standards. You can't look at
- 16 the standards and the emission in a case, and -- and
- the listing in a case like this in isolation.
- 18 MR. BROWNELL: Justice Sotomayor, if I could
- 19 try the answer to the question once again.
- The subsection N(1) (a) question is whether
- 21 after considering the results of the study -- and I note
- that the study also looks at alternative control
- 23 strategies for any emissions that may warrant
- 24 regulation -- the agency determines such regulation is
- appropriate and necessary. So the focus of the

- determination is not on -- on listing and whatever may
- 2 flow from that, but the regulation that the agency
- decides to apply to address the remaining public health
- 4 hazard that is identified from this source category.
- 5 JUSTICE ALITO: Mr. Brownell, when -- did
- 6 EPA say we are not going to take costs into account at
- 7 the listing stage because we will take costs into
- 8 account through this sub-categorization possibility
- 9 that's being discussed?
- 10 MR. BROWNELL: No, they did not, Your Honor.
- 11 As I recall the record of the proceeding, this
- discussion of sub-categorization has come up in the
- 13 briefing afterwards.
- 14 JUSTICE BREYER: Why -- why didn't they
- write -- you see what's -- try -- these questions are
- 16 difficult because they're so hypothetical. It isn't
- 17 true that 50 percent of the industry will use up
- 18 50 -- all the domestic product, et cetera. But they
- wrote this thing in a way that sounds as if even if that
- 20 had been true, they wouldn't have taken it into account.
- 21 So -- so what they say is the EPA does not believe it is
- 22 appropriate to consider costs when determining whether
- 23 EGU is -- okay. You see the problem? So for me -- but
- the SG is telling us, don't worry. Maybe they should
- 25 have written, knowing what we know and what is

- 1 undisputed so far, we don't think that the cost problem
- is big enough for us to warrant a cost-benefit analysis
- or other consideration. Okay? Then they've taken it
- 4 into account. So there's no problem if it's within,
- 5 it's reasonable.
- Now, they didn't write that. So that's why
- 7 I'm looking to see is the -- it's really the SG, but I
- 8 mean, is -- is there really a different way that they
- 9 could eliminate this horrible scenario if it existed,
- 10 which it didn't. You understand what I'm driving at?
- 11 I'm trying to get your best answer on that.
- 12 MR. BROWNELL: And -- and I want to
- emphasize that this is not an argument about whether or
- 14 not to regulate mercury where there's been an identified
- public health risk. It's whether the regulatory regime
- 16 that has been defined here under Section 7412, which the
- 17 government says is the listing that applies to all other
- source categories, and the (d)(3) minimum controls
- technology standards that apply to all other source
- 20 categories is the right way to do it. Regardless of how
- 21 you subcategorize, it's going to have tremendous impacts
- as a result of acid gas regulation and for a pollutant
- that presents no public health risk. There are other
- 24 ways --
- 25 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: I -- I suppose we

1	can't we can't uphold an agency rule on a ground that
2	they didn't adopt below, right?
3	MR. BROWNELL: That's correct.
4	CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Under Chenery?
5	MR. BROWNELL: That's correct.
6	CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: So is your
7	understanding correct that this is not an argument a
8	basis for decision that they adopted below?
9	MR. BROWNELL: That's correct, Your Honor.
10	My understanding of the basis for the decision below is
11	that costs are irrelevant in our determination under
12	(n)(1)(a) whether or not whether to regulate the
13	source category under the typical Subsection 7412 regime
14	that applies to other source categories.
15	JUSTICE KAGAN: But that's exactly right,
16	Mr. Brownell. I mean, the the agency, at that point
17	in time, was only answering the very first question, the
18	very threshold issue. And at that point, the agency
19	said costs were irrelevant. But costs become relevant
20	later in the analysis and in a variety of ways: Through
21	the 12 and a half percent, through the 12 percent,

through the categorization and sub-categorization,

through the determination whether to raise standards

particular thing, the agency said, yes, here we don't

even higher. So costs costs later, but as to this

22

23

24

25

1	consider costs. We could, but we don't want to because
2	there's all this potential for costs to come in
3	afterwards.
4	MR. BROWNELL: And, Your Honor, it's costs
5	costs costs under the statutory criteria that Congress
6	provided for setting (d)(3) control technology standards
7	and then having defined those standards at the end of
8	the process, the agency finalizes its (n)(1)(a)
9	determination in light of the costs and impacts and
10	other factors that are mentioned in the
11	JUSTICE KENNEDY: Do you think do you
12	think that whenever the term "appropriate" is used in a
13	regulatory context in the Clean Air Act, that it demands
14	a cost-benefit analysis?
15	MR. BROWNELL: Your Honor, when you say in
16	any context, that's so broad I don't think that I can
17	say that it would require cost-benefit in any context.
18	But in a specific context here where the focus is on
19	whether such regulation is appropriate and necessary,
20	that regulation has certain characteristics and
21	consequences that we have talked about this morning,
22	including the fact that it imposes on a pollutant that
23	presents no public health risk, \$5 billion a year.
24	JUSTICE GINSBURG: But, Mr. Brownell, before
25	you finish because your time is out can you clarify

1	for me why this is $\ensuremath{}$ is at this stage something that we
2	should be concerned about because there is this
3	regulatory impact assessment and that that has said
4	that the benefits vastly exceed the costs, and
5	that's that's an impact analysis and has gone through
6	the OR process and OR concluded that EPA appropriately
7	calculated the costs.
8	MR. BROWNELL: Yes, Your Honor, Mr. Chief
9	Justice. The co-benefits all of those benefits are
10	co-benefits. Only 4 to 6 million dollars are associated
11	with hazardous air pollutants. Those co-benefits that
12	are in the regulatory impact analysis were not
13	considered as part of the regulatory determination for
14	good reason, because they're important questions
15	regarding their legal importance and relevance under the
16	proper standard. And what I mean, Your Honor, is that
17	PM 2.5 is the pollutant, fine particles that is

- 18 associated with these co-benefits. That is extensively
- regulated under the National Ambient Air Quality 19
- 20 Standard program. In fact, those are quality standards
- were only recently revised to be tightened, and in the 21
- 22 context of that proceeding, the agency found that the
- low levels of exposure for these co-benefits did not 23
- produce effects or risks that were of regulatory 24
- 25 significance because they're too uncertain. So there

1	are serious questions about legal relevance and
2	importance.
3	CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you, counsel.
4	MR. BROWNELL: Thank you, Mr. Chief Justice
5	CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: General Verrilli.
6	ORAL ARGUMENT OF DONALD B. VERRILLI, JR.
7	ON BEHALF OF FEDERAL RESPONDENTS
8	GENERAL VERRILLI: Mr. Chief Justice, and
9	may it please the Court:
10	EPA's interpretation of Section
11	7412(n)(1)(A) should be affirmed for three basic
12	reasons. First, it is the most natural and certainly a
13	permissible reading of the statutory text which directs
14	EPA to focus on health concerns and doesn't mention
15	costs.
16	Second, it harmonizes the provision with
17	Section 7412's structure and design, because it applies
18	the same regulatory logic to power plants that Congress
19	directed EPA to apply to regulate hazardous air
20	pollution from every other type of source, and that is
21	decide whether to list for regulation based on health
22	and environmental hazards alone, and consider costs in
23	setting the emission standards.
24	And third, as a matter of common sense and
25	sound government practice, it was certainly appropriate

- on health and environmental hazards, because that
- 3 reflects the approach Congress chose not only in 7412,
- 4 in this regulatory program, but in all of the major
- 5 regulatory programs under the Clean Air Act.
- 6 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Could I go to
- 7 your -- you're now three out -- your first -- first
- 8 point. You concede, don't you, that EPA could have
- 9 interpreted the statutory language to allow them to
- 10 consider costs?
- 11 GENERAL VERRILLI: I think EPA read it as --
- read the best interpretation of the statute was it
- didn't provide for the consideration of costs at the
- 14 listing stage --
- 15 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: But under Chevron,
- if you adopted a regulation that said appropriate and
- 17 necessary allows us to consider cost, you think that
- 18 would be appropriate?
- 19 GENERAL VERRILLI: I think the phrase
- appropriate and necessary doesn't, by its terms,
- 21 preclude the EPA from considering cost. But under
- 22 Chevron, what the EPA has got to do is explain the
- 23 justification for its reading of the statute, and that's
- 24 what it did.
- 25 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Right. But since

1	you're dealing with the term, I think this says as
2	capacious as appropriate, and since you could have
3	issued a regulation allowing the consideration of costs
4	as appropriate, you're saying that the agency
5	deliberately tied its hands and said we're not going to
6	consider something. We're going to issue a rule saying
7	we can't consider something that we could consider
8	otherwise.
9	GENERAL VERRILLI: No, I think the best way
10	to think about this, Mr. Chief Justice, is what the
11	agency did was decide that it was appropriate to
12	approach the question of whether to regulate power
13	plants in the same manner that Congress found it was not
14	only appropriate, but mandated to address the question.
15	CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: They could have
16	I'm not I understand your argument that they could
17	have done that, but I think it's unusual for an agency
18	to say, when they want to do something, that that's the
19	only thing we could do. Agencies usually like to
20	maintain for themselves as much discretion as they can.
21	And it strikes me as unusual, maybe the agency could go
22	ahead and consider and not consider costs, but to say
23	that we're prohibited from considering costs under the
24	phrase appropriate, it strikes me as very unusual.
25	GENERAL VERRILLI: Well, it said I don't

Т	think so, Mr. Chief Justice. It said It didn't say,
2	we're prohibited from considering costs. It said, we
3	are not going to consider costs at the listing stage in
4	making the decision about whether power plants should be
5	listed for regulation under Section 7412.
6	CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: I thought I
7	thought the rule was that the phrase appropriate and
8	necessary did not allow them to consider costs.
9	GENERAL VERRILLI: And appropriate and
10	necessary goes to the question of whether power plants
11	should be listed for regulation under Section 7412,
12	which would then kick in the regulatory mechanism by
13	which standards were set and costs are considered at the
14	standard-setting
15	JUSTICE KENNEDY: I have the same question
16	as the Chief Justice. Let me ask one more time. Could
17	this agency reasonably have considered costs at stage
18	one?
19	GENERAL VERRILLI: I don't think the
20	statutory text unambiguously forbids them from
21	considering costs. But they determined that the best
22	reading of the statutory text is that power plants,
23	because after the study was conducted that Congress
24	required, EPA determined that power plants are no
25	differently situated than any other source of hazardous

1	air poliucants regulated under Section 7412.
2	And if I may Mr. Chief Justice?
3	CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Sure.
4	GENERAL VERRILLI: For every other source of
5	hazardous air pollutants, what Congress mandated as
6	appropriate was that you do not consider costs when you
7	decide whether to regulate. You only consider health
8	and environmental effects, and then you do consider
9	costs under Section 7412(d) when you set the emissions
LO	standards.
L1	JUSTICE ALITO: How is that how is that
12	consistent with this statutory scheme? If your argument
L3	is that EPA's only reason for doing this is that it
L 4	wants to treat power plants the same as other sources,
L 5	we know that that's what Congress didn't want or it
L 6	would have it would not have enacted the separate
L 7	provision for power plants.
L 8	GENERAL VERRILLI: I agree, Justice Alito,
L9	that Congress proposed different treatment for power
20	plants, but that doesn't answer the question. That just
21	asks the question. The question is what different
22	treatment did Congress prescribe. Now, what Petitioners
23	are arguing is that what Congress prescribed and mandated
24	was a cost-benefit analysis that does not apply to any
25	other source of hazardous pollutants.

1	But that is not what the text of the statute
2	says, and it's not what the history reflects. What the
3	text of the statute says in (n)(1)(A) is that even
4	though for every other source, regulation would proceed
5	immediately; for power plants, there was uncertainty
6	about whether power plants emitted hazardous pollutants
7	at a level that would cause a problem, whether the acid
8	rain regulations would solve the problem, and whether
9	there were alternative control strategies available.
L 0	And so if I may. I'm sorry.
L1	EPA what Congress told EPA to do was to
12	study those three things. Those go to health
L3	considerations. And then once EPA was made a
L 4	judgment about that, it was to decide whether to list
L 5	power plants for regulation as whether it was
L 6	appropriate and necessary to list them for regulation.
L 7	JUSTICE ALITO: This is what I don't
L 8	understand about your position. Congress's decision to
L9	treat power plants differently, it seems to me, reflects
20	the fact that Congress wanted at least to hold open the
21	possibility that power plants would not be listed even
22	if their emissions exceeded the levels that would result
23	in listing for other sources. I don't see another
24	reason why they would treat them differently.
> 5	GENERAL VERRILLT. Well I think

1	JUSTICE ALITO: If I can just continue.
2	GENERAL VERRILLI: I'm sorry.
3	JUSTICE ALITO: Perhaps you may disagree
4	with that, but it seems to me that that that's a
5	necessary inference from this statutory scheme.
6	If that is the case, what factor might
7	Congress have thought would justify allowing power
8	plants to emit more than would be permitted if they were
9	other sources?
10	Now, Petitioners have an explanation which
11	is costs, and they say that power plants have to bear a
12	lot of costs that other sources don't have to bear, in
13	particular the Title IV program. Their emissions might
14	exceed the otherwise permissible limit because they have
15	participated in the cap and trade program, so they have
16	contributed to the reduction in emissions in that way,
17	in a way that wouldn't be reflected in their in their
18	own emissions.
19	So what that is an explanation. Cost is
20	what's missing. I don't know what your explanation is.
21	GENERAL VERRILLI: So I know Your Honor
22	asked me to accept the premise, but I can't accept the
23	premise because both the text of (n)(1)(A) and the
24	legislative history tell you what considerations
25	Congress left open, and they were all related to the

- 1 possibility of health hazards. No one -- the argument
- 2 that Your Honor just posed is not in the legislative
- 3 history, and it's not in the text. And if Congress
- 4 really thought that, then what they would have said to
- 5 EPA is, take the -- push the pause button, take the
- 6 three years and study -- don't subject them to the same
- 7 schedule as everybody else -- and study the cost
- 8 problem. They would have expressly told EPA to study
- 9 costs. And they did not do that.
- 10 JUSTICE ALITO: If all they were concerned
- about was health, why wouldn't they impose on power
- 12 plants the same standard that's imposed on area sources?
- 13 Just ask EPA to determine whether there is -- I forget
- 14 the exact term -- but is there an effect on public
- 15 health, a significant effect on public health, whatever.
- 16 If so, list.
- 17 GENERAL VERRILLI: I think they came very
- 18 close to that, because what they said -- first of all,
- 19 they -- they told EPA to make its judgment after
- 20 considering the results of the study, and they told EPA
- 21 to study things that went to health hazards. And so that
- 22 comes very close, it seems to me, and the reason, I
- think, it used the appropriate and necessary language,
- 24 rather than the language Your Honor suggests, is because
- I think Congress, when it was legislating here in 1990,

1	understood	that	there	might	well	be	uncertaint	:y a	t t	:he
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- 2 end of this -- of the analysis that Congress directed
- 3 the EPA to undertake. There might be uncertainty about
- 4 the projected effects of the acid rain regulations,
- 5 because I do -- I do think it's important to clear up --
- 6 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: I don't -- I think
- 7 that's what the legislative history said.
- 8 GENERAL VERRILLI: Right. And I do want to
- 9 clear up a misconception about that, I think, which is
- 10 that -- that the way these acid rain regulations
- 11 unfolded, they were put in place in 1990 at the same
- 12 time as 7412, but they were to unfold over a 10-year
- period; 5 years until the first stage, and then 5 more
- 14 years until second stage. So EPA was going to have to
- make a long-term projection here about which there could
- 16 be some uncertainty.
- 17 And so I think what Congress was saying to
- 18 EPA was you may need to exercise your judgment here, and
- in fact, EPA did exercise its judgment because it
- 20 concluded --
- 21 JUSTICE BREYER: There are two parts to this
- 22 argument. One is what were they thinking of the word
- 23 appropriate if it wasn't costs? All right, I see your
- answer to that. I'll think about that.
- But the second, which I think your argument

- 1 very much depends on, in my mind anyway, is, well, don't
- 2 worry, because there is a way to take into account
- 3 costs. So, if, in fact -- I mean, you know, it's a lot
- 4 of money, \$9 billion, and if you divide it by the
- 5 population, you have \$30 a person for a family of four
- of \$120. That's a lot of money for people, for some
- 7 people. And to say, gee, you couldn't take it into
- 8 account ever, suppose it would have been 500? You know,
- 9 it begins to look a little irrational to say, I'm not
- 10 taking it into account at all. But you say, never fear,
- 11 because they will take it into account when they set
- 12 standards. And at that point I read the thing about the
- 13 12 percent. I've got the word "similar source," which
- then can refer me back to the categorization of two
- things earlier, as they say maybe, and then I have,
- aside from that, hey, here's what you do. When you're
- 17 regulating you look at the top 12 generators and that's
- 18 the minimum standard. So they might want to say, hey,
- 19 that's not right. I mean, it's right, it says it. But
- 20 if you go to the bottom 50 generators, you're going to
- 21 see it's not going to cost \$120 per family, it's going
- 22 to cost \$1,000 a family. And we have the EPA saying, we
- 23 won't even look at that.
- 24 At that point I begin to say, oh, my
- goodness. Why? Why won't you even look at it? You

- 1 could say it isn't true, but why wouldn't you even look
- 2 at it.
- 3 And -- and now the answers seems to me to be
- 4 in that word "similar source," and the classes and the
- 5 subclasses. Because were there such an argument, maybe
- 6 the EPA could say, don't worry. If there is such an
- 7 argument, which there isn't, we have the power here
- 8 under the statute to take it into account.
- 9 Now, you know where that argument came from?
- 10 From discussion and thought in my chambers. Now, maybe
- it came out of the briefs, too. But is what I say
- 12 right? Can the EPA take that into account, or do they
- have to just blindly say, if it's the top 12, that's for
- everybody no matter what the cost? In which case they
- 15 can't take it into account ever except for the word
- 16 "appropriate." Now, that's the argument I'm putting --
- 17 you got it in my argument because that's important.
- 18 GENERAL VERRILLI: I -- I've got it. I'm
- 19 going to make three points in response to it.
- 20 JUSTICE BREYER: Yes.
- 21 GENERAL VERRILLI: The first one goes to the
- 22 empirical situation in this case, but then I'm going to
- get to the theoretical question you asked.
- 24 JUSTICE BREYER: Yes.
- 25 GENERAL VERRILLI: The first is this: Nine

- 1 billion is a big number. This is an industry with \$360
- 2 billion a year in annual revenues, so you're talking
- 3 about two to two-and-a half annual revenues -- of annual
- 4 revenues. And what Congress and what EPA concluded when
- 5 it --
- 6 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Revenues doesn't talk
- 7 about profit, though.
- 8 GENERAL VERRILLI: Right. But it's -- well,
- 9 this is a cost, and the cost is about two and-a-half
- 10 percent of revenues. And then what EPA concluded was
- 11 that this -- that about 2 percent of electrical
- 12 generating capacity could go offline as a result of it
- being uneconomic. So it's not a 50 percent or a 78, 88
- 14 percent.
- 15 JUSTICE BREYER: Right . And as soon as
- 16 you've said that, you've taken costs into account, which
- is what they say they wouldn't do.
- 18 GENERAL VERRILLI: And then -- but then --
- 19 now, let me talk about the way EPA under this regime
- 20 does take costs into account. The first point I would
- 21 make is that the situation that Your Honor described in
- the hypothetical is a quite unusual one. In the normal
- 23 case, the 12 percent rule, it's a technology-forcing
- 24 rule, the kind that Your Honor discussed in -- in your
- concurring opinions in Whitman and in Entergy. It's

- 1 that kind of a rule. And for -- and in the normal case,
- 2 it's not going to have that effect. It means that
- 3 this -- this percentage of the industry has been able to
- 4 meet this without an operator in an economic matter and
- 5 Congress is trying to force the rest of the industry to
- 6 catch up. And as we know from multiple experiences, as
- 7 Your Honor identified with respect to catalytic
- 8 converters and motor vehicles and with respect to acid
- 9 rain, it turned out that the cost was vastly lower on
- industry than EPA anticipated it would be; that there's
- a very great tendency to overestimate costs in that
- 12 situation.
- But then the third point is Your Honor's
- point about subcategories. And Section 7412(c)(1),
- which is the provision that governs the listing of
- 16 categories, it mentions the availability of
- 17 subcategories and, in fact, the last sentence of it says
- 18 nothing in this --
- JUSTICE KENNEDY: Do you have that page?
- 20 GENERAL VERRILLI: I'm sorry, I'm sorry,
- Justice Kennedy. It's 35A of the appendix to our brief.
- JUSTICE KENNEDY: Thank you.
- 23 GENERAL VERRILLI: And this is (c)(1) and
- 24 it's the last sentence. And it -- and it talks about
- 25 the EPA's authority and says, "Nothing in the preceding

1 sentence limits the administrator's authority to 2 establish subcategories under this section as 3 appropriate." And in fact, that is what --JUSTICE SCALIA: Can -- can those 4 5 subcategories apply to the minimum standards? 6 GENERAL VERRILLI: Yes. That's how it would 7 work, because you -- you identified the category and then you generate the standard based on who's in the 8 9 category. 10 JUSTICE SCALIA: No, but I thought the standards are automatic. There's certain minimums. 11 12 Once they find on the basis of -- of the study that these things should be listed, I thought there -- there 13 is an automatic requirement imposed on -- on -- which is 14 15 the reason they're complaining. Well, the -- the 16 GENERAL VERRILLI: requirement -- it depends on how you categorize. 17 18 if -- if there were a situation - let me just switch --19 if there were a situation in which one segment of the 20 industry was so vastly different from another segment of 21 the industry in terms of its economics, in terms of its 22 technology, then EPA would have the authority to break 2.3 those into two separate subcategories and then you don't 24 calculate the best performing 12 percent, which is what 25 the standard is, until you know if it's the best

1	performing 12 percent of the people you've put in the
2	category.
3	JUSTICE BREYER: The language that does
4	that the language that does that is the first
5	sentence of three, which says, "The maximum degree that
6	is deemed achievable, not less stringent than the
7	emission control," that is achieved in practice by the
8	best-controlled similar source as determined by the
9	administrator." That's what allows him to break it into
10	categories and apply the minimums to the to similar
11	source.
12	GENERAL VERRILLI: Right. And
13	JUSTICE BREYER: Am I right or not?
14	GENERAL VERRILLI: That's correct. And EPA
15	did that in this case. It broke out power plants that
16	generate power burning natural gas, and it said that's a
17	separate subcategory.
18	CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Where in the
19	record where can you point me into the record where
20	this argument was made or considered by the agency? As
21	opposed to Justice Breyer's chambers. Because it's a
22	very important principle of administrative law that we
23	will only uphold a rule based on the arguments that were
24	considered and addressed by the agency. So and I
25	I as I said, it's not something I recall from the

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      briefs.
 2
           GENERAL VERRILLI:
                                      It's, of course, true,
 3
      Mr. Chief Justice. But -- and you're -- you're exactly
      right in stating that principle. But our argument in
 4
 5
      this case is that this question here is -- under --
 6
      under (n)(1)(a), (n)(1)(a) says, "EPA shall regulate
 7
      under this section if it determines that such regulation
      is appropriate and necessary," and therefore, that when
 8
 9
      EPA makes a judgment to regulate under this section,
10
      because it is appropriate and necessary, EPA is -- is
      triggering all of the requirements --
11
                                    Well, you're just saying --
12
           JUSTICE SCALIA:
13
      you're just saying that the argument is right, not that
14
      the -- not that the agency made it, right?
15
           GENERAL VERRILLI:
                                      Well, it's -- I quess
      what I would say about it, Your Honor, is --
16
           JUSTICE SCALIA:
                                    It's not enough that the
17
      argument be right. The -- the agency must have rested
18
19
      its decision on the point.
20
           GENERAL VERRILLI:
                                      The -- I think that the
21
      agency in the order on being challenged here did use the
      approach. But beyond that, whether or not -- it would
22
23
      be one thing if this were a case in which you had a
      situation in which EPA -- or EPA faced a situation in
24
25
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which 50 percent or 75 percent were going to face vastly

- 1 uneconomic consequences. But this case didn't present
- 2 that situation. EPA made a judgment about --
- 3 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: General, can I simplify
- 4 your answer for you?
- 5 (Laughter.)
- 6 GENERAL VERRILLI: Yes. I'd be delighted if
- 7 you did that, Justice Sotomayor.
- 8 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: All right. Basically,
- 9 you have consistently in your brief, and so has the
- 10 other Respondents, basically said at the listing stage
- 11 we don't consider costs, we consider it later. And
- 12 everybody gave a few examples. Whether this example was
- 13 given or not is irrelevant. The issue here was, do you
- have to do it at listing? It's only some of my
- 15 colleagues here who are concerned that when you issue
- 16 standards, you never consider cost.
- 17 GENERAL VERRILLI: And that's exactly right.
- 18 The question here is whether EPA's got to conduct a
- 19 cost-benefit analysis when it does the listing, and the
- 20 logic of the statute of 7412 doesn't -- it doesn't
- 21 operate --
- JUSTICE KENNEDY: But at that point the game
- 23 is over.
- 24 GENERAL VERRILLI: No, I don't think it is,
- 25 Justice Kennedy, for -- for several reasons. First,

1 the -- the standard under Section 7412(d) for setting 2 emissions -- emissions standards once you've decided to 3 list, that is Your Honor's question to -- to my friend General Lindstrom pointed out, that does take costs into 4 5 account in the sense that a segment of the industry can 6 operate economically. Secondly --7 JUSTICE SCALIA: Excuse me. I don't -- I didn't understand that. I thought that there were 8 9 automatic requirements imposed once -- once the -- the 10 plants are listed. GENERAL VERRILLI: Once EPA lists --11 12 JUSTICE SCALIA: Yes. 13 GENERAL VERRILLI: -- and defines the 14 category for listing, then the automatic requirement 15 that is applied is that everyone in the category has to 16 match the performance of the best 12 percent. 17 JUSTICE SCALIA: Where did this categories comes from? I -- I really don't like the fact that 18 your -- your friend on the other side was -- was not 19 20 permitted to mount an argument in opposition to this 21 categorization theory that Justice Breyer's chambers 22 devised. Usually -- usually we have arguments on both 2.3 sides. This is an argument I never heard of and I'm not

sure it's right. But -- but I certainly didn't --

didn't know the agency to say, oh, we're just listing,

24

25

- 1 but we're -- you know, we're going to categorize the
- 2 listing. They didn't say that.
- 3 GENERAL VERRILLI: I understand your point
- 4 about the focus or non-focus on subcategories. But the
- 5 point that we're just listing, we say that over and over
- 6 again in our brief. And in fact, the Petitioners
- 7 concede, and this is at page 5 and 6 of the UARG reply
- 8 brief, that if this is just about listing, then, of
- 9 course, costs are irrelevant. But it is just about
- 10 listing. That is the way the statute works.
- 11 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: You had responded to
- 12 the fairly dramatic disparity your friends on the other
- say, the 6 million benefits, 9.6 million cost. You
- 14 respond with a different calculation that looks to -- I
- 15 call them collateral --
- 16 GENERAL VERRILLI: Co-benefits.
- 17 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: -- the ancillary --
- 18 co-benefits. And then the -- the argument is raised
- 19 that that's -- that's not quite proper because you're
- 20 using your -- your -- the HAP regulation to get at the
- 21 criteria pollutants that you otherwise would have to go
- through a much more difficult process to regulate.
- In other words, you can't regulate the
- 24 criteria pollutants through the HAP program, so you get,
- okay, here we've got this tiny bit of mercury, and so

- we're going to regulate, and that's how we're going to
- 2 get additional regulation of the criteria pollutants.
- 3 And so it's sort of an end run around the restrictions
- 4 that would otherwise make -- give you less control over
- 5 the regulation.
- 6 What -- what's your response to that?
- 7 GENERAL VERRILLI: Let me address that.
- 8 It's -- there's several points, and I actually need to
- 9 make all of them, I think, to -- to make this clear.
- The first point is that that's not an
- 11 argument that any party has raised. One amicus brief
- 12 raised it, one -- and it was averted to a bit more oral
- 13 argument --
- 14 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Well, my
- 15 chambers found it, but --
- 16 (Laughter.)
- 17 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Yes.
- 18 GENERAL VERRILLI: And -- and here's the
- 19 problem with the argument: The problem with the
- 20 argument is that -- it -- it has two problems. One is
- 21 that once EPA concludes that a source emits a hazardous
- 22 pollutant, and here EPA has concluded that these sources
- 23 emit mercury at levels that are unsafe. I don't think
- 24 Petitioners dispute that. And by the unambiguous terms
- of Section 7412(d), EPA is under an obligation to

1 regulate all hazardous pollutants that the source emits, 2 and -- and that's -- the D.C. Circuit in a case called 3 National Lime 15 years ago --CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Well, no, no, no. I 4 5 understand --6 GENERAL VERRILLI: -- interpreted it that 7 way --CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: -- I understand how 8 9 the end run works. GENERAL VERRILLI: Well, it's not --10 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: I'm -- I'm just 11 12 questioning --13 GENERAL VERRILLI: It's not a --14 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: No, I'm just 15 questioning the legitimacy of it --GENERAL VERRILLI: Yes. 16 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: -- because what they 17 would say, okay, you found, you know, a -- a HAP that --18 that you want to list, but you ought to consider only 19 the benefits of regulating that. You shouldn't consider 20 21 the -- the bootstrapped --GENERAL VERRILLI: Well, I quess the --22 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: -- benefits -- that 2.3 24 should be addressed through the other --GENERAL VERRILLI: I guess the next point I 25

- 1 would make, Mr. Chief Justice, is that it's not an end
- 2 run, and it's not a bootstrap. This is a well --
- 3 regulating the surrogates, regulating the surrogates, is
- a well-recognized methodology that goes back decades,
- 5 that EPA has used for decades, that the D.C. Circuit has
- 6 upheld for decades, that that is a perfectly appropriate
- 7 way to -- to deal with getting at metals and -- and
- 8 other pollutants that would be hard to get at directly.
- 9 And, in fact, the very argument that Your Honor is
- 10 positing here as a -- as an end run is one that was made
- in this same National Lime case to the D.C. Circuit
- 12 15 years ago and the D.C. Circuit rejected.
- So what EPA is doing here -- basically what
- 14 the D.C. Circuit said, that Section 7412(d) required
- them to do with respect to regulating every hazardous
- 16 pollutant that the -- that the sources emit, and what
- 17 the EPA has said, and what the D.C. Circuit has said for
- 18 decades, EPA --
- 19 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Well, right. But, I
- 20 mean, the --
- 21 GENERAL VERRILLI: -- is permitted to do,
- 22 and that it isn't an end run at all. It's just a normal
- 23 way in which you regulate --
- 24 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Well, but the issue
- 25 that I think raises the red flag, at least, is that

1	there's such a tiny proportion of benefit from the HAP
2	program and such a disproportionate amount of benefit
3	that would normally be addressed under the criteria
4	GENERAL VERRILLI: So
5	CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: program. So
6	so it's not just that, yes, where you're regulating one,
7	if it's a good thing if it also has benefits with
8	respect to other pollutants. But if your basis for
9	regulating what what is the benefit from the
10	co-pollutants that you get?
11	GENERAL VERRILLI: The oh, it's many,
12	many billions of dollars.
13	CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Do you remember how
14	much it is? It's sort of 30
15	GENERAL VERRILLI: 30 to \$90 billion.
16	CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: 30 to 90 billion.
17	The benefit from the mercury is, what, 4 million?
18	GENERAL VERRILLI: Well
19	CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: So you say, we get
20	to regulate this. We get to regulate it because there's
21	a \$4 million impact on mercury. But when we do that, we
22	get to regulate 35 billion in a way that gives us
23	\$35 billion in cost on the other side.
24	GENERAL VERRILLI: So
25	CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS. So I understand the

1 idea that you can have -- you know, it's a good thing if 2 your regulation also benefits in other ways. But when 3 it's such a disproportion, you begin to wonder whether it's an illegitimate way of avoiding the different --4 5 quite different limitations on EPA that apply in the 6 criteria program. 7 GENERAL VERRILLI: So I don't -- I -- I really don't think that. I understand that Petitioners 8 9 have put the case that way, Mr. Chief Justice. I don't 10 think that's a fair way to put it. 11 What EPA did with respect to mercury was 12 quantify one of the public health benefits. It did not 13 quantify many of the other public health benefits. you'll look in the Joint Appendix -- and I think this is 14 about page 910 to about page 940, there's page after 15 page of charts in which EPA has listed the other 16 benefits that come from regulating mercury and the 17 18 hazardous substances that it didn't try to quantify. 19 Part of the reason it didn't try to quantify 20 is because quantifying those kinds of benefits can be 21 very difficult and challenging. And, frankly, that is 22 one of the key reasons that Congress adopted not only in 2.3 7412, but under the NAAQS Program and the Motor Vehicle 24 Program and the New Source Performance Standard Program, 25 the approach it did of not taking costs into

1	consideration	n at the listing	g stage, but only at the
2	regulatory s	tage	
3	JUSTICE	SOTOMAYOR:	Could you tell me
4	about		
5	GENERAL	VERRILLI:	because
6	JUSTICE	SOTOMAYOR:	the natural gas? You
7	were cut off	earlier.	
8	GENERAL	VERRILLI:	Sure. EPA reached the
9	conclusion th	nat they ought t	to have that natural gas
10	power plants	ought to be a s	separate category and and
11	because they	didn't generate	e public health problems at
12	the level tha	at would make th	nem comparable to the
13	the the co	oal and	
14	JUSTICE	SOTOMAYOR:	So they were
15	JUSTICE	ALITO:	Now, on this issue of
16	JUSTICE	SOTOMAYOR:	part of the listing,
17	but not		
18	JUSTICE	ALITO:	I'll wait.
19	GENERAL	VERRILLI:	Correct.
20	JUSTICE	SOTOMAYOR:	They were part of the
21	listing, but	they were not r	regulated, because you just
22	sort of turn	it off.	
23	GENERAL	VERRILLI:	Yes, Your Honor.
24	JUSTICE	ALITO:	Can I ask you another
25	question abou	it these subcate	aories?

1	Your your argument is that under the last
2	sentence of 7412(c)(1), the EPA can create subcategories
3	based, in whole or in part, on costs; is that right?
4	GENERAL VERRILLI: I I think I think
5	it's more subtle than that. I think that if I
6	think and it's not just that provision. It's
7	there are numerous provisions within 7412 that allow for
8	subcategorization. But I think that if there is such a
9	vast difference in the tech in the in the
10	technologies that the that the group of entities is
11	using, that there would be that vast a difference in
12	cost, that there might well be a basis to treat them as
13	a different subcategory.
14	JUSTICE SCALIA: Well, why didn't the EPA
15	say that? I thought the EPA said, we are not going to
16	take into account costs with regard to the listing.
17	Now, they could have said, we're going to take into
18	account costs as to whether some categories should be
19	listed and other categories shouldn't be listed. That's
20	not what they said. They said, we will not take into
21	account costs with regard to listing. We list all
22	GENERAL VERRILLI: Here here's what
23	JUSTICE SCALIA: of of these
24	GENERAL VERRILLI: here's what they
25	said

1	JUSTICE SCALIA: utilities.
2	GENERAL VERRILLI: Justice Scalia, and
3	I and here's why they said it, and I think this is
4	critical.
5	What they said was that we think it is
6	appropriate, with respect to power plants, not to
7	consider costs at listing and to consider costs
8	JUSTICE SCALIA: Right.
9	GENERAL VERRILLI: at emission standard
10	setting. And the reason we think it is appropriate is
11	because that is the standard, that is the regulatory
12	logic that Congress deemed not only appropriate, but
13	mandatory for every other source category. And so one
14	would have to conclude, then, that what Congress said
15	was mandatory, and therefore necessarily appropriate for
16	every other category, was inappropriate, and even
17	additionally goes so far as to say
18	JUSTICE SCALIA: That that that's how
19	I understood their argument
20	JUSTICE KAGAN: But
21	JUSTICE SCALIA: entirely. And I did not
22	understand it to say, we you know, we we can we
23	can exempt some people from these minimum standards
24	because we categorize them differently. It it
25	definitely was not allowing

1 GENERAL VERRILLI: That -- that is their 2 main argument, but I do think the point -- what the 3 point of -- the point of the logic of EPA's position here is that you make the listing decision, and then you 4 5 regulate, as (n)(1)(A) says, under Section 7412, and 6 these are provisions in Section 7412 that give EPA the 7 authority to --8 JUSTICE KAGAN: And, General, as --9 JUSTICE ALITO: Are their regulations 10 that --11 JUSTICE KAGAN: -- as I understood it --12 please. 13 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Alito. 14 JUSTICE ALITO: Are there regulations that 15 set out the criteria for creating these subcategories? GENERAL VERRILLI: I'm -- I'm not aware that 16 there are. I'm not -- I just don't know the answer to 17 that, Your Honor. 18 19 JUSTICE ALITO: So, well, without them, we 20 really don't know to what extent, if any, costs are 21 taken into account in creating subcategories, do we? GENERAL VERRILLI: Well, I -- I think 22 23 that -- I -- no, I do think that if -- it's -- it's 24 going to be based on differences in technology and 25 operation, I think, from which you might be able to

1	inter costs.
2	But that's hypothetical in this case because
3	this is not a case in which EPA needed to confront that
4	question, except with respect to natural-gas-fired power
5	plants, which they did find to be so different that
6	they they warranted different treatment, because it
7	didn't have the kind of problem that Justice Breyer's
8	hypothetical raised. You you didn't have that kind
9	of problem. You didn't need to face this issue in these
10	cases, so the EPA didn't.
11	And if I could just make this point, because
12	I think it's quite I think it's quite critical.
13	Given that 7412's regulatory logic provides for listing
14	based on health, emissions standard-setting based on
15	on costs, including consideration of costs, and based on
16	the and and given that that's exactly the same
17	logic under the NAAQS Program, it's exactly the same
18	logic under the Motor Vehicle Program, it's exactly the
19	same logic under the New Source Performance Standards
20	Program, that if Congress intended to mandate that EPA
21	cut so deeply against the grain and make such a
22	radically different approach with respect to this one
23	category of sources, you would expect to see very clear
24	legislative language to that effect. You would expect

to see a -- a direction to EPA in 7412 to study costs

25

- 1 before making this judgment.
- 2 JUSTICE SCALIA: General Verrilli, let me --
- 3 let me ask a question about costs. There -- there are
- 4 economic costs. There are other costs. Is it -- is it
- 5 the Agency's position that no cost can be taken into
- 6 account? For example, it -- it may find that -- that a
- 7 particular material has an effect on health, but it may
- 8 find that eliminating it will have other effects that
- 9 are even more deleterious to health. Could that cost be
- 10 taken into account?
- 11 GENERAL VERRILLI: If I may answer,
- 12 Mr. Chief Justice. I think that cost would be taken
- into account in the OIRA regulatory impact analysis.
- 14 JUSTICE SCALIA: But not for the listing.
- 15 GENERAL VERRILLI: But -- but not for the
- 16 listing.
- 17 JUSTICE SCALIA: Not for the listing.
- 18 That's right.
- 19 GENERAL VERRILLI: Thank you.
- 20 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you, General.
- 21 Mr. Smith.
- ORAL ARGUMENT OF PAUL M. SMITH
- ON BEHALF OF INDUSTRY RESPONDENTS
- 24 MR. SMITH: Mr. Chief Justice, and may it
- 25 please the Court:

1	We agree with the government that the EPA
2	was not required to engage in a cost-benefit analysis
3	before making the initial listing decision to regulate
4	hazardous pollutants emitted by power plants from
5	power applying the appropriate and necessary
6	standard. And I I certainly want to acknowledge at
7	the beginning, clearly, Congress did think that power
8	plants needed to be treated differently, but what did
9	they give them? They gave them a 3-year pause in which
10	the EPA was instructed to take account of the health
11	effects of the particular pollutants emitted by power
12	plants, and it did this under an appropriate and
13	necessary standard.
14	And if I could address the issue of what
15	those two words mean in the reading of the EPA, I would
16	refer the Court to pages 226 and 227 of the National
17	Mining Association cert-petition appendix. I don't think
18	it's necessary to read from it, but what the EPA said
19	consistently throughout this record is we looked at two
20	things. There was a claim made in the legislative
21	history that these chemicals are simply not harmful
22	enough to require any further regulation, that their
23	effects are negligible, and they looked at that issue
24	under the appropriateness rubric. And they said these
25	are harmful chemicals, particularly mercury.

Т	in addition, under the appropriateness
2	rubric, they looked at the question of whether or not
3	there were technologies available to regulate them. The
4	necessary rubric was used to look at the post-Clean Air
5	Act post-acid rain health effects that would persist.
6	So they said, A, these are harmful chemicals harmful
7	pollutants; and B, under necessary, they will continue
8	to be harmful after the Acid Rain Program has kicked in.
9	And that's how the Court the EPA saw the two
10	different words, and it's a perfectly logical way for
11	them to proceed.
12	JUSTICE SCALIA: Who who would have
13	guessed? I mean, that seems such an artificial division
14	of of necessary and appropriate. Why describe it
15	again. I really didn't didn't quite understand it.
16	Necessary means what?
17	MR. SMITH: The claim everybody concedes
18	that necessary means that there will still be health
19	problems after the Acid Rain Program kicks in.
20	JUSTICE SCALIA: All right. And appropriate
21	means?
22	MR. SMITH: The appropriate was intended to
23	meet the claim made by the the industry that these
24	chemicals already are sufficiently harm-free that we
25	don't need to regulate here regardless of the effects.

1	JUSTICE SCALIA: Why isn't that part of the						
2	first one? I mean						
3	MR. SMITH: Well, it could have been done						
4	that way. They read them separately						
5	JUSTICE SCALIA: I see.						
6	MR. SMITH: Your Honor.						
7	JUSTICE SCALIA: Okay.						
8	MR. SMITH: That's the way the government						
9	read them.						
10	JUSTICE SCALIA: It's a silly way to read						
11	them, I think.						
12	MR. SMITH: Perhaps so, Your Honor. But the						
13	key thing is, the issues that they were directed to						
14	study, the issues that were then supposed to control the						
15	listing decision were the health effects of the						
16	pollutants that come out of these power plants. And						
17	they then deferred the issue of considering a cost to						
18	the second stage just as occurs with every single other						
19	source of the same 189 hazardous pollutants that they						
20	were dealing with.						
21	And if I could pause here and just clarify						
22	one thing about what happened at that listing stage.						
23	Natural gas-fired plants were not turned into a						
24	category. They looked at the health effects of natural						
25	das-fired plants and said we are exempting them entirely						

1	from regulation under this section, under the
2	appropriate and necessary standard because they simply
3	don't emit these chemicals in more than trace amounts,
4	and there's simply nothing for us to regulate. So
5	natural gas plants get taken out at the listing stage.
6	We then have coal-fired and oil-fired plants
7	as to which they begin to apply the subsection (d)
8	standards, standards which were designed by Congress to
9	limit the emission regulation to reasonable amounts,
10	designed because the floors are, in fact, limited to
11	what has already been achieved by comparable plants in
12	the same category.
13	Now, there was some question raised about
14	whether or not this categorization was something that
15	EPA recognized it could use to effect the emissions
16	standards and make them reasonable. In fact, as
17	Mr. Brownell acknowledged, they did use create a
18	category a separate category of coal-burning plants
19	that burned Lignite, because it turns out that none of
20	the Lignite plants could meet the the standards that
21	would otherwise have have applied with respect to
22	mercury if they were in the category with the other
23	coal-fired plants.
24	They then through this whole process looked
25	at the issue of categorization. They started out with

- 1 two coal-fired categories. They ended up with -- and as
- 2 far as that, with one oil-fired category. In the final
- 3 rule, there are four separate categories of oil-fired
- 4 plants, depending on what they burn and how they
- 5 operate. So this whole process of separating out these
- 6 categories to produce emissions standards that make
- 7 sense and are practicable was built into that process
- 8 under subsection (d) --
- 9 JUSTICE KAGAN: Mr. Smith, could -- could
- 10 you just clarify for me that the -- the categorization
- 11 happens after the listing; is that correct?
- 12 MR. SMITH: Yes, Your Honor. What they
- listed was all coal-fired plants and all oil-fired
- 14 plants, but no natural gas plants. They then go to the
- 15 question of what emissions standards should occur. And
- 16 with respect to other sources, that's sometimes years
- 17 after the listing decision is made. But they then have
- a process of saying, what are our categories going to
- 19 be? We have to put out -- we have to get information at
- 20 that point. What of the top 12 percent of the category
- 21 would, in fact, are there emissions? You have to --
- 22 they have to report in. They make a calculation about
- 23 that.
- 24 JUSTICE SCALIA: Aren't -- aren't these just
- 25 requirements above the minimums that automatically

1	apply?
2	MR. SMITH: No, Your Honor. The the
3	minimums are established by what the top 12 percent in
4	the category that the EPA has
5	JUSTICE SCALIA: Yes. But I'm I'm saying
6	the categorization that allows you to you know, to
7	reduce some people and and not to reduce others, that
8	applies to requirements above the minimums. No?
9	MR. SMITH: Your Honor, the the minimums
10	are the things that are set by mathematical calculation
11	from the categories. Everything else above the minimums
12	is done taking cost into account under (d)(2) expressly.
13	JUSTICE SCALIA: Yes.
14	MR. SMITH: So the only thing that is done
15	using not express consideration of cost, but
16	consideration of cost indirectly basing the regulations
17	on what the top 12 percent are doing is the minimums.
18	And the minimums are then altered, depending on what
19	categories you establish. That is the way that the
20	regulation has worked for all of the sources that they
21	regulated. That is the the practical mechanism
22	JUSTICE KAGAN: So just to clarify that just
23	for for my own purpose, Mr. Smith. It's just you
24	categorize one way, the minimums are down here. You
25	categorize another way the minimums are un there

1	MR. SMITH: That's correct, Your Honor.
2	JUSTICE KAGAN: It can make a huge
3	difference in terms of what the minimums are.
4	MR. SMITH: Right. And there's a notice and
5	comment process. They put out proposed categories.
6	They tell them what we empirically what we found
7	about what the top 10 12 percent are doing. They
8	then get comments in and they as they happened
9	here they make different categories in the final rule
10	adjusting.
11	JUSTICE ALITO: How can we how can we
12	tell the degree to which costs are taken into account,
13	if they are at all, without knowing what the criteria
14	are for creating these subcategories?
15	MR. SMITH: Well, Your Honor, it's in the
16	statute that they create the categories in applying this
17	12 percent. I don't
18	JUSTICE ALITO: No, no. The 12 percent I
19	thought the 12 percent came into play after you've
20	created the category the subcategory.
21	MR. SMITH: Right, as part of the process.
22	It's part of the process.
23	JUSTICE ALITO: But how do I know how they
24	create the subcategories?
25	MR. SMITH: Well, it's you can see it in

- the notice of proposed rulemaking. They say here are
- our proposed categories: Two coal categories, one oil
- 3 category. Then they get comment about how -- we are
- 4 not -- what happens, then, is the people that comment
- 5 say we're so different from that category. We have
- 6 these special problems. We need our own separate
- 7 category.
- 8 JUSTICE KAGAN: And it's a rulemaking after
- 9 the rulemaking that applies to the listing; is that
- 10 right?
- 11 MR. SMITH: It's totally after that, Your
- 12 Honor. It's a second phase. It -- it happened here
- that they announced it all at the same time, but only
- 14 because there had been an 11-year delay.
- 15 JUSTICE BREYER: You -- you confirm it was
- 16 not made up in my chambers.
- 17 (Laughter.)
- 18 JUSTICE BREYER: The fact -- the fact is --
- MR. SMITH: Although they did a wonderful
- job figuring it out again, Your Honor.
- 21 (Laughter.)
- JUSTICE BREYER: You're right. The -- the
- 23 brief said Congress -- the SG's brief -- unambiguously
- 24 required EPA to consider costs at the second stage of
- 25 the regulatory process. That's what it said. A few

- 1 pages later, they have the statute. So not
- 2 surprisingly, I read the statute. And -- and reading
- 3 the statute leads me to think it works along the lines
- 4 you just said.
- 5 MR. SMITH: That's correct your honor.
- 6 JUSTICE BREYER: But if you did have the
- 7 most expensive set of generators in the world, you would
- 8 ask EPA to create a separate category for them in which
- 9 case the top 12 percent would no longer be in your
- 10 category and you wouldn't have to do it.
- 11 MR. SMITH: And that's what happened with --
- 12 JUSTICE BREYER: Now, what I'm asking is if
- that you think it's the system, that's what I read in
- 14 the statute. The SG thinks that's the system, but is
- 15 there a treatise? Is there a -- an explanation that EPA
- 16 has put out so that it is clear that it was not made up,
- 17 that it's clear that this is the system that they
- 18 follow? Would you refer me to a source?
- 19 MR. SMITH: Your Honor, the only source that
- 20 I can refer you to -- and perhaps the government can
- 21 supply something after -- is -- is the notice of
- 22 proposed rulemaking in the final rule in which all of
- 23 this categorization process is laid out in -- in
- 24 exquisite detail. And -- and you can see the comments
- 25 that come in and say the categories don't work, we need

- different categories, and they then produce different
- 2 categories.
- 3 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: I think that Justice
- 4 Alito --
- 5 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Is there something
- 6 in the -- excuse me. Is there something in the
- 7 administrative record where EPA adopts that? When
- 8 somebody says you're not considering cost. It's a bad
- 9 thing. We're going to go to the Supreme Court if you
- don't consider cost, and EPA says, oh, no we're going to
- 11 consider cost. We're going to consider cost when we
- 12 categorize the power plants. Is there a reference to
- 13 the administrative record where there's something like
- 14 that?
- MR. SMITH: Well, they certainly said, Your
- 16 Honor, in the notice of proposed rulemaking, that we
- 17 interpret the listing decision as being something that
- is based solely on health and not on cost.
- 19 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: The listing decision
- is not based on cost.
- 21 MR. SMITH: Right.
- 22 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: I want to know if
- there's anything there that says, but don't worry
- because we're going to consider cost through the
- 25 categorization process.

1	MR. SMITH: I don't know whether they said
2	that explicitly. That was so implicit in the whole
3	system. This is a system that's been in operation for
4	other sources for since 1990.
5	CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Well, implicit
6	usually doesn't work when you're talking about an
7	administrative record.
8	MR. SMITH: Your Honor, they gave everybody
9	the opportunity to attack the categories that they, in
LO	fact, proposed, based on the argument that they were
11	impractical for them.
12	JUSTICE KENNEDY: But I thought your
L3	position was that you didn't need to consider costs at
L 4	the first step, and that that would include your initial
L 5	category.
L 6	MR. SMITH: No, Your Honor, the categories
L 7	are at the second step. The categories have the only
L 8	thing that they did at the first step is say
L9	JUSTICE KENNEDY: But you didn't take that
20	second step.
21	MR. SMITH: They did, Your Honor. They
22	categorized oil-fired plants into four categories. They
23	categorized coal-fired plants into various categories.
24	And that was all done through a notice and comment

process which led, then, to different emission

25

1	standards.
2	JUSTICE KENNEDY: And are you saying that
3	was done based on cost?
4	MR. SMITH: Yes, Your Honor, it was done
5	what what was feasible for these different
6	technologies.
7	JUSTICE SCALIA: I see. How much money did
8	that save? I mean, do we know how much of the \$9.6
9	billion cost would be reduced by this categorization?
10	MR. SMITH: Well, Your Honor
11	JUSTICE SCALIA: I mean, that's the problem
12	here, isn't it?
13	MR. SMITH: I don't have that calculus, but
14	I would point out that it's important to recognize that
15	something like 90 percent of that 9.6 billion 90
16	percent of the capital cost, which is most of that 9.6
17	billion, has now already been spent. And the industry
18	has not experienced the kinds of upheavals that are
19	being described. The rule takes effect in the middle of
20	April, and so the idea that the result here was somehow
21	ludicrous or outlandishly expensive is belied by the
22	fact that the industry is bringing itself into full
23	compliance.
24	JUSTICE SCALIA: Instead of going to jail?

25

Is that it?

1	MR. SMITH: Complying with Federal law
2	JUSTICE SCALIA: I mean, it might still be
3	ludicrous, but it had to be done.
4	MR. SMITH: Well, the other thing I would
5	say is the idea that the \$4.6 million benefit is the
6	proper comparator is wrong on so many different levels.
7	First of all, that was a single one single health
8	benefit related to mercury. They didn't think
9	JUSTICE KENNEDY: Is the \$9 billion a year
10	recurring annually, or are you saying that most of this
11	is capital investment one time?
12	MR. SMITH: Most of it is amortization of
13	the capital expenditures that have already been made.
14	That's in all the briefs from the Petitioners. There
15	will be something like 40 percent will be operating
16	costs and 60 percent is amortized capital costs, Your
17	Honor.
18	The industry has been able to do this, and
19	the situation now is we're ready to finally have
20	national standards, which means it's not the States
21	that have been regulating in this area very strenuously
22	won't continue to have mercury flowing across state
23	lines as they have. And we have this national, highly
24	competitive electricity market, where some companies
25	have marginal costs that reflect that they're in

- 1 compliance, and some don't. And that is a problem that
- 2 really needs to be solved.
- 3 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Mr. Smith, I just want
- 4 you to finish your thought. The four million -- the
- 5 four billion that they are referring to is only mercury.
- 6 The agency did not quantify all of the other costs for
- 7 the other HAPs, correct?
- 8 MR. SMITH: Actually, it didn't quantity
- 9 many, if not most, of the costs for mercury, because
- 10 mercury causes developmental delays, attention deficit
- 11 disorder --
- 12 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Well, let's put that
- 13 aside.
- 14 MR. SMITH: -- all these other things that
- are not quantified in the rule. It causes
- 16 cardiovascular problems that are not -- a lot of things
- 17 mercury does, it's an extremely poisonous neurotoxin.
- 18 The other thing about the 30 billion to 90
- 19 billion, that is particulate reduction, and some of the
- 20 particulate that is reduced is, in fact, HAPs. It is
- 21 nonmercury metals that go out in the form of particles.
- It is mercury that sometimes goes out in the form of
- 23 particles. It is the acid gases, which when they get
- 24 out into the atmosphere turn into particles because they
- become aerosolized, they go into your lungs as tiny

- 1 droplets.
- 2 So all of those are, in fact, being taken
- 3 care of in the controls of particulate. It is true that
- 4 in controlling those HAPs, you use the same technology
- 5 and you end up controlling a lot of other kinds of
- 6 particulate, primarily sulfur dioxide, which causes
- 7 premature deaths. And so when they did the calculation,
- 8 they said we put these particulate controls in to
- 9 control HAPs. It happens to also save a lot of lives,
- 10 because of sulfur dioxide that's not otherwise being
- 11 controlled. And so we'll tell you all the lives we're
- 12 saving, not just some of those lives.
- 13 JUSTICE ALITO: Was this the basis for the
- 14 EPA's decision? I thought the EPA -- I thought the
- 15 EPA's position was, it doesn't matter how much the
- 16 benefit -- how much the costs exceed the benefits, we
- 17 just will not take costs into account at the listing
- 18 stage.
- 19 MR. SMITH: That is correct, Your Honor.
- 20 They did not consider the cost-benefit analysis at the
- 21 listing stage. That's based on their reasonable --
- quite reasonable, I think, interpretation of the
- 23 statute. The statute, which with respect to every other
- source, it's conceded you don't do the cost-benefit
- 25 analysis upfront. This statute came out of a period of

1	regulatory	paralysis	of 20	vears,	where	the	EPA	iust

- wasn't regulating effectively.
- And Congress came in and said we're going to
- 4 force regulation of these chemicals that are being
- 5 spewed into the environment and causing all these health
- 6 effects. It gave one benefit to the power plant
- 7 industry and said you have three years. You can prove
- 8 that there wasn't -- there aren't really health effects
- 9 that are serious. But it didn't give them the benefit
- of having a cost-benefit analysis done upfront, or
- 11 create all the discretion in the world on the part of
- 12 EPA simply to say, we don't think you should regulate
- 13 this particular category.
- 14 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you,
- 15 Mr. Smith.
- Mr. Lindstrom, you have four minutes
- 17 remaining.
- 18 REBUTTAL ARGUMENT OF AARON D. LINDSTROM
- ON BEHALF OF STATE PETITIONERS
- 20 MR. LINDSTROM: Thank you, Mr. Chief
- 21 Justice.
- 22 Any subcategorization that was going to
- 23 happen has already occurred, because we're talking about
- the rule that's been promulgated, and despite any
- subcategorization that happened, there's still \$9.6

1	billion in costs that are being imposed on an annual
2	basis
3	JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: You're asking us it
4	wasn't the question presented. Is the question
5	presented that not that you have to take that into
6	account at listing, but that somehow that ratio makes
7	any emissions standards wrong
8	MR. LINDSTROM: The question is whether
9	JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: even if, for some
10	people, it's really not back-breaking to do it?
11	MR. LINDSTROM: The question is whether
12	costs have to be considered under (n)(1) when you're
13	regulating electric utilities. And there's one thing
14	I'd like to
15	JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: They do say it does when
16	you're regulating at the emission standard.
17	MR. LINDSTROM: They say that it's being
18	done I guess if you think about this, what happens
19	under 7412(c) is you've got a listing decision, first
20	stage. Then you've got a floor standard. And then
21	you've got an above-the-floor standard.
22	JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: That's not what
23	MR. LINDSTROM: In their approach
24	JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: You're taking out the

They don't establish the floor until

25

categorization.

Т	they categorize, correct:					
2	MR. LINDSTROM: So categorization could					
3	happen here, but my point is, what happens under (n)(1)					
4	is these first two steps are merged. You're making the					
5	necessary and appropriate determination, when you're					
6	looking not to list, but whether such regulation is					
7	appropriate and necessary. That's the language in the					
8	statute. It says, is such regulation appropriate and					
9	necessary.					
10	So it's not just whether it's going to be					
11	listed. It's looking at what's actually going to					
12	happen, so that's why it's that's why they did both					
13	at the same time. Why they made the appropriate and					
14	necessary finding at the same time they published the					
15	emissions standards. They were looking at the costs					
16	ahead because they didn't know what the costs were going					
17	to be to figure out if such regulation					
18	JUSTICE SCALIA: Are you saying that they					
19	purported to make the categorization decision without					
20	taking into account costs?					
21	MR. LINDSTROM: Yes, any categorization					
22	they've done has already been done, and they didn't					
23	consider costs.					
24	JUSTICE SCALIA: And didn't consider cost.					
25	MR. LINDSTROM: That's correct. And again,					

- 1 I'd like to return to one of the big picture principles,
- which is, this is an administrative law case, so it does
- 3 -- this turns or falls on what the agency actually did
- 4 below. So they've already actually made determinations.
- 5 They've said costs are not relevant. They've ignored an
- 6 important part of the regulatory problem, and adopted --
- 7 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: I'm sorry. They
- 8 proposed categories, and everybody had the opportunity
- 9 to say it's the wrong category, correct?
- 10 MR. LINDSTROM: Yes, Your Honor.
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: And argue why it's the
- 12 wrong category.
- 13 MR. LINDSTROM: And the categories have been
- 14 adopted
- 15 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: And some people
- submitted complaints about costs relative to their
- 17 technology and their kinds of plants, correct?
- 18 MR. LINDSTROM: Yes, Your Honor.
- 19 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: So, it's not true that
- 20 -- they proposed them, but everybody gets a chance to
- 21 tell them, these are -- this technology is different
- from the others, or this kind of plant is different from
- 23 the others, and it imposes a cost much greater than you
- 24 are anticipating.
- MR. LINDSTROM: I'm saying we're already

- 1 past that phase. They've already -- any categorization
- they were going to do has already been done.
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: No, what you're saying,
- 4 it's already past. It's past because that's been -- the
- 5 final rule has been issued.
- 6 MR. LINDSTROM: Correct.
- 7 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: I'm talking during the
- 8 rulemaking process. The rulemaking process does permit
- 9 the agency to consider the cost of technology in setting
- 10 up categorizations.
- 11 MR. LINDSTROM: They've adopted the exact
- opposite position, which is that costs do not matter.
- JUSTICE BREYER: Well, I thought we just
- 14 heard -- I thought we just heard that say the Lignite
- people, I can't remember if that's the right name, but
- 16 they said, look, we have special ways of producing
- 17 this -- our stuff, and they are much more expensive, so
- 18 please don't put us in the same category as you put the
- other people in. Okay? For the purposes of figuring
- the best 12 percent, and the agency said, right, okay,
- 21 separate. Now, did that happen?
- MR. LINDSTROM: Yes.
- 23 JUSTICE BREYER: All right. Then how would
- you do that without considering cost? Because their
- 25 basis was the Lignite people were saying our costs are

1	more expensive?
2	MR. LINDSTROM: We don't know how they 1
3	don't know how they did it, but they've said throughout
4	that we're not considering costs.
5	Thank you, Your Honor.
6	CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you, counsel.
7	The case is submitted.
8	(Whereupon, at 11:46 a.m., the case in the
9	above-entitled matter was submitted.)
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